



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

August 25, 2003

MR BRIAN DOLINAR

Subject: HIMES, CHESTER BOMAR

FOIPA No. 0978284- 000

Dear Requester:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552/552a). Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempted from release under the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page number has been inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(1) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(2) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3) _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C) |
| _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D) |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E) |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(4) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(6) | |

Section 552

- | |
|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7) |

99 page(s) were reviewed and 99 page(s) are being released.

☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

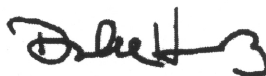
- ☐ referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
- ☐ referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

☒ You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Co-Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, Flag Building, Suite 570, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☐ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", followed by a stylized flourish or number "3".

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s) (2)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b) (1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;
- (b) (2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b) (3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b) (4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b) (5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b) (6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b) (7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b) (8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b) (9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d) (5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j) (2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k) (1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k) (2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k) (3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k) (4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k) (5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k) (6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k) (7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts

Release

SUBJECT: CHESTER BOMAR HIMES

256,272
7/15/85 9145 0110ms

ENCLOSURE

105-2502-X

JPHa:WMC

6-12-44

~~105-2502-X~~

105-2502-X

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CHESTER B. HILES; Article Captioned, "Negro Martyrs Are Needed," appearing in the May, 1944, Issue of "The Crisis"; INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION.

For your information there is attached a photostatic copy of an article headed as above which, as indicated, was reportedly written by one Chester B. Hiles, and appeared in the May, 1944, issue of "The Crisis," which has been described as the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

You will note that the article recommends revolutionary action on the part of colored people and for that reason I thought it should be brought to your attention. However, no investigation is being instituted unless you believe the article is sufficient to warrant such attention and so advise the Bureau.

As a matter of further information it is noted that one Chester B. Hiles of Los Angeles, California, who may or may not be identical with the author of this article, has been reported to be an adherent or supporter or perhaps a member of the Communist Party or other organizations reported to be in sympathy with the Communist Party.

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 256,272
DATE 7/15/85 BY 9145 cil gms

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Jones _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 15

JUN 13 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

JPH:WMJ

RECORDED

105-2502-X1
100-135-35
SAC, New York

July 10, 1944

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CHESTER B. HIMES;
INTERNAL SECURITY;
SEDITION.

Reference is made to your letter of May 26, 1944, captioned, "Negro Plan of Revolution; Internal Security - C," advising that a questionable article, "Negro Martyrs Are Needed," written by the above-captioned individual appeared in the May, 1944, issue of the publication, "The Crisis." You furnished a copy of this issue of "The Crisis" and you will recall that the article in question related to certain proposed revolutionary actions to be initiated by Negroes.

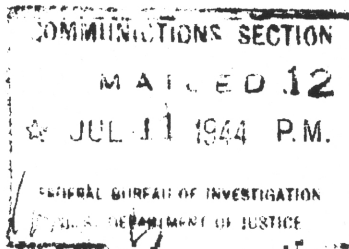
The Criminal Division of the Department, after considering a copy of this article, has communicated with the Bureau requesting that an investigation of Himes be undertaken. In view of this request, it is desired that a preliminary investigation be immediately instituted for the purpose of developing appropriate data as to Himes' general background, activities, inclinations, etc. You should particularly determine the nature of Himes' writing or publishing activities and whether the article, "Negro Martyrs Are Needed," is representative of his general efforts in this regard. *Monitors, red copy, in GMS!*

The Department is apparently not desirous of having an investigation of the publication, "The Crisis," carried out and, additionally, the Bureau desires that this inquiry, which has been requested, be conducted as discreetly as possible, particularly any phases thereof which might or might seem to concern "The Crisis." As indicated, the Department has requested an investigation of Himes individually. However, you should, of course, continue whatever examinations you have made of "The Crisis" in connection with your general coverage of Negro activities.

As a matter of information, the Bureau's files show that one Chester B. Himes of Los Angeles, California, who may or may not be identical with the author of this article, has been reported to be an adherent or supporter or perhaps a member of the Communist Party or other organizations reported to be in sympathy with the Communist Party.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 256,272
DATE 7/15/85 BY 9143 CUM

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy



RECORDED
JUL 11 7 52 PM '44
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

CHAP. 3

Handwritten notes and signatures in the top right corner.

Handwritten notes:
GIBBS: Fin THORIS II // FBI = present!!
= reads before the FBI!

L A 100-22661

publication of his latest effort, which will probably be entitled "As the End Comes." [redacted] that this book deals with a young Negro couple and that the characters therein are actually the subject and his wife. Like most of his other writings, this book is a sociological study. She advised that HIMES is presently in New York City arranging with the publishing house of Houghton & Mifflin, which has agreed to publish the work. She stated that he had had various articles accepted by magazines and other publications, such as Esquire and the Saturday Evening Post. She did not elaborate upon the type of articles referred to or the particular issues of the publications mentioned.

[redacted] advised that subject had registered for the first Selective Service call at a Cleveland, Ohio, draft board; that he had been subsequently called up for physical examination, but was turned down for physical disability. It was also learned that while in New York in connection with the publication of his book, subject is residing at 940 St. Nicholas Street, but that he expects to return to Los Angeles as soon as the transaction with the publishing house has been completed. [redacted] characterized him as a writer by occupation.

The personnel records of the Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company at San Pedro reflect that subject's complete and true name is CHESTER BORMOR HIMES; that he filed an application with this concern on March 6, 1944, giving his address as 1056 North de Garmo Drive, Los Angeles, telephone Angelus 22272. Prior to that he resided at 4433 Crocker Street, Los Angeles. He was born at Jefferson City, Missouri, on July 29, 1909, concerning which he furnished documentary proof satisfactory to the shipyard. He is registered with Local Draft Board #20, Cleveland, Ohio. He is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City. He is also a member of the National Urban League, 1133 Broadway, New York City.

His personnel file reflected the following relatives, although the relationships other than that of his wife are not given: [redacted]

[redacted] JEAN HIMES, wife, 1056 North de Garmo Drive, Los Angeles.

Subject was educated at East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, graduating in 1926. Thereafter he claims one year at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

His prior employment was listed as follows: 1938 to 1944, WPA, Cleveland, Ohio; 1943, California Sanitary Canning Company, 50th and Long

Handwritten: IF He Hb 2

Handwritten: Address #

Handwritten: NAACP Urban League

Handwritten: WPA

CMP. 3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

This Case Originated at
Report Made at

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

NY File No. 100-63874 SBS

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Date When Made 1/8/45
Period for Report Made By
Which Made 12/14, 18/44
1/1/45

b7C

Title

CHESTER BORMOR HIMES

Character of Case

INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

Synopsis of Facts:

Photo
CC TO: New
REQ: 12-44
ALL 24 107
ANS:
BY: [redacted]

HOUGHTON & MIFFLIN CO. have not published nor contracted to publish any book for subject. Subject is unknown to them. Subject has a contract and is presently writing a book for DOUBLEDAY DORAN CO. Articles written by subject and published in "Esquire" reviewed herein.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 236,773
DATE 7/15/83 BY 9145410ms

- RUC -

b7C

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 105-2502.
Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated
November 25, 1944 at Los Angeles, California.

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

AGENCY
REQ. REC'D 12-23
REP'T FORW. 12-23
BY

[redacted] HOUGHTON & MIFFLIN COMPANY, 432 Fourth Avenue, New York City, New York, advised that CHESTER BORMOR HIMES has no contract with that Company for the publication of any book, pamphlet, or writings of any kind. He stated that HIMES is not known to that Company and that they have never published anything for him.

b7C

b7D

RUSSELL & VOLKMAN, 522 Fifth Avenue, New York City, New York, stated that that partnership is the literary representative for the subject in the New York area. He stated that at the present time HIMES is under contract to the DOUBLEDAY DORAN COMPANY and that he is presently writing a book for that Company.

Comet
100
Discarded

Approved and Forwarded E.E. [signature] Special Agent in Charge

Do not write in these spaces

COPIES DESTROYED of this Report

105-2502-9

RECORDED
INDEXED

412
5 Bureau
3 Los Angeles
2 Chicago
2 Philadelphia
2 New York
FEB 3 1945

COPY IN FILE
cc - PR
2/3/45
ESA

EX-11

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED

CW-3

NY 100-63874

He stated that practically all of HILES' writing so far as he knew has been purely fiction work but that he believed that HILES had written a few articles for the Negro Press somewhere in the vicinity of the State of Illinois. He stated that he could furnish no further information concerning these articles.

[redacted] stated that the subject has had several articles published in "Esquire" magazine in years past [redacted]

He also said that HILES had had articles published in the "Saturday Evening Post" which is published by the CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] "Esquire" magazine in the New York area, 366 Madison Avenue, New York City, New York, advised that CHESTER BORMOR HILES is an ex-convict and that most of his early writings were done while he was still in prison. [redacted] he could furnish little information concerning HILES' background but he knew that the articles had been published through [redacted] "Esquire" magazine whose office is at 919 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

[redacted] "Esquire" Magazine, 366 Madison Avenue, New York City, New York, advised that he does not personally know the subject. He stated that all of HILES' articles had been submitted through agents. He could furnish no background information concerning the subject.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] "Esquire" Magazine, 366 Madison Avenue, New York City, advised that the following articles written by the subject had been published in "Esquire":

<u>Date of Magazine</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Name of Article</u>
August 1934	28	"Crazy in the Stir"
October 1934	100	"To What Red Hell?"
September 1936	76	"Visiting Hour"
January 1937	64	"Nights for Cryin"
May 1937	99	"Every Opportunity"
March 1940	58	"Marihuana and a Pistol"
February 1942	55	"Strictly Business."

MAC
PCIA
No too!

The writer obtained copies of the above mentioned magazines from [redacted] and reviewed each of the above listed articles.

CMAA 3

900011 in CMAA 2
for

NY 100-63874

All of them were found to be fiction articles and none contained any material which could be termed seditious. The following is a short review of each of said articles:

"Crazy in the Stir"

This article has the caption "A long-term prisoner in a state penitentiary tells an authentic story about life on the inside." It is a sordid descriptive story of the life and thoughts of a convict in prison and the action of his fellow convicts.

"To What Red Hell?"

This article is captioned "Fire in the Big House seen from the inside through the eyes of a long-term insider." This is also a fiction article describing a fire which took place in a prison and with a great deal of descriptive material concerning injured prisoners, their thoughts, and actions.

"Visiting Hour"

This article is captioned "The words a man really means to say to his wife can't come out in those few caged moments." This is also a fiction article describing an interview between a prisoner and his wife and describes her attempts to obtain executive clemency on his behalf and his feelings of hatred and sorrow because of her inability to obtain his freedom.

"The Nights for Cryin"

This article is captioned "Black Boy wasn't afraid of anyone living but death row is a sorrowful place at night." This is a fiction article describing the actions of "Black Boy", a Negro, in overtaking his girl, a Negress, who had been unfaithful to him and of Black Boy's assault upon her and subsequent apprehension and incarceration because of his love for her.

"Every Opportunity"

This article is captioned "His mother used to tell him that if he'd eat his oatmeal he'd be President." This is a description of the thoughts and actions of a parolee who is being released from the penitentiary and of his first few days of freedom.

SHIRT
PRISONER
or the
MAA.
man!
- (great)
Ove him
file - a
Star on -
for read
stream
interest!

CV. F. O.
100-15680

CHAP
2/3

(The only information set forth will be that which is in addition to the background, etc., reported in the referenced report.)

Draft
The subject took his physical examination for induction on February 14, 1944 at Los Angeles, California, and was rejected at this time because of a back injury. On May 22, 1944 he was reclassified by Local Board #20 as 2-EF.

On July 13, 1937, according to his Selective Service records, the subject was married at Cleveland, Ohio to JEAN LUCINDA ~~HIMES~~.

Oakland
It was noted that one additional address was given for the subject, which address was 4213 West Street, Oakland, California. From the change of address notices in the subject's file, it seems that the subject moved from 1056 DeGarmo Drive, Los Angeles to the Oakland, California address, and then moved again back to the DeGarmo Drive address.

On December 6, 1944, there was a notice of change of address in the subject's file and on this notice was the information that he was at the present time writing a Negro sociological novel entitled "As Change Comes On" on a Rosenwald Fellowship. He also stated that he was under contract with the Doubleday, Doran and Company, 17 West 49 Street, New York City. His home address in New York City is the same as shown in the referenced report.

On January 6, 1945, [redacted] of the Cleveland Retail Credit Men's Company, National City Bank Building, Cleveland, Ohio, furnished a credit report on one CHESTER B. HIMES, wife LUCINDA, which indicated that HIMES resided at 89 North 20th Street, Columbus, Ohio. His occupation at this time was WPA Library Project. The period that HIMES resided in Columbus is not known. b7C

The records of the Identification Division of the Cleveland Police Department were checked, and it was ascertained that the subject has the following criminal record with this department:

As CHESTER HIMES, #10279, arrested Columbus, Ohio, November 28, 1927, charged forgery.

On January 23, 1928, he was given a deferred sentence and placed on probation.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Chicago

SUBJECT: CHESTER BORMOR HIMES
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

DATE: February 16, 1945

Reference is made to the attached report of Special Agent [redacted] dated February 16, 1945 at Chicago, Illinois, in the above-captioned case.

b7C

[redacted] Esquire Magazine, Chicago, advised that he had learned that the subject made application for a scholarship with the Rosenwald Foundation in January, 1944.

b7C

b7D

No attempt has been made to obtain any information concerning subject's communications with the Rosenwald Foundation due to the fact that several suspects in the COMRAP case have visited the Rosenwald Foundation while in Chicago and it is not believed that this office should attempt to obtain information from that organization.

Accordingly, no attempt will be made to contact the Rosenwald Foundation in the absence of specific Bureau authorization.

will
interpr
hiv
08
February!
[Amazing!]

WLR:VLS
100-17587

cc - Los Angeles

Encs. 5

105-2502-14

RECORDED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 23,272-17
DATE 7/15/83 BY 3145-110ms

51
6 MAR 14 1945

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

NY FILE NO. 100-63874 FMO

REPORT MADE AT

NEW YORK CITY

DATE WHEN MADE

7/12/45

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE **5/21, 23; 6/4, 16/45**

REPORT MADE BY

[Redacted]

b7C

TITLE

CHESTER BOMAR HIMES, wa.

CHARACTER OF CASE

**INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION**

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

If He Hollers
Title of HIMES' book changed to "If He Hollers Let Him Go". Book expected to be released on 10/5/45. Arrangements made to secure copy. HIMES moved from 940 St. Nicholas Ave., NYC, no forwarding address. No information available regarding HIMES' intention to reside permanently in NYC or activities while in NYC.

book title changed

- P -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED **256,726**
DATE **7/15/83** BY **9434/oms**

b7C

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [Redacted] 3/21/45, New York.
Report of Special Agent [Redacted] 4/2/45, Los Angeles.
Bureau letter to New York, 4/10/45.
Letter to Bureau from Los Angeles, 5/26/45.

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY.

AGENCY
REC'D
REP'T FORW.
BY

On May 21, and 23, 1945, Confidential Informant [Redacted] advised that the title of CHESTER BOMAR HIMES' book has been changed to "If He Hollers Let Him Go."

The book is expected to be released on October 5, 1945, and arrangements were made through Confidential Informant [Redacted] to secure a copy of the same.

**COPIES DESTROYED
41**

On May 23, 1945, June 4, and 16, 1945, Confidential Informant [Redacted] was contacted in an effort to determine if HIMES was still

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

5-Bureau
3-Los Angeles
3-New York.

COPIES IN FILE

**RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

RECORDED

INDEXED

From Los Angeles Tribune
May 5, 1946.

Chester Himes to finish 2nd novel in California

COLUMBUS, O.—Novelist Chester Himes, visiting his brother, Dr. Joseph H. Himes, here, is reported to be working on a second book, "Magnificent Inspiration", which he intends to complete in California, just as he did his first, "If He Hollers Let Him Go."

Himes and his wife, Jean, are en route to the seclusion of a Susanville (Calif.) farm, and expect the book, which concerns unionism and the Negro organizer, to be ready for Fall publication.

They are going west because they feel that the many social obligations they would have in New York City would take too much time from writing. "If He Hollers" was finished in Los Angeles with financial assistance from an aunt and a 1942 Julius Rosenwald fellowship.

Submitted by Los Angeles Field Division.

Re: CHESTER BOMAR HIMES, wa;

SEDITION

Bureau File: 105-2502

2 JUL 23 1946

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 256,272
DATE 7/13/83 BY 9145C/LDM

INDEXED

EX-48

87 JUL 10 1946



Mrs. Grace Clifford, New York social leader says: "A clear, healthy, unblemished complexion is the greatest social asset! Ugly, pimply, rough skin weakens one's popularity, rendering it difficult to gain entree into society. Beautiful women cleanse their skin with warm water and gentle medicated *Palmer's "SKIN-SUCCESS" SOAP*. To lighten skin that is dark and tanned, I heartily recommend fast-working, fragrant *Palmer's "SKIN-SUCCESS" WHITENING CREAM*. Another hint: If embarrassed by pimples, eczema and other blemishes of external origin, be sure to use *Palmer's "SKIN-SUCCESS" OINTMENT*. Helps bring blessed relief and a CLEARER, HEALTHIER, LOVELIER SKIN, everyone adores."

A Sensational Addition To Negro History

THE NEGRO IN VIRGINIA

A most entertaining and instructive account of the Virginia Negro from his arrival to the present day

Price: \$2.50 postpaid

THE CRISIS BOOK SHOP

69 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York

Negro Martyrs Are Needed

By Chester B. Himes

1914

1914

Martyrs are needed in every age and in every land. They are needed in the church, in the state, in the world.

The world is a cruel and hard place. It is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black. The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

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The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black. The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

Contrary to the opinion of the late Ulrich B. Phillips Negroes are not "by racial quality substandard" as the many slave rebels allege. In this article our author argues brilliantly for revolution and leaders in the tradition of Gabriel and Nat Turner.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black. The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

Aim of Revolution

There can be only one aim of revolution. It is the aim of the oppressed to overthrow the oppressor. It is the aim of the weak to overthrow the strong.

What will be the aim of the Negro revolution?

The aim of the Negro revolution will be the overthrow of the white man's rule. It will be the overthrow of the white man's rule.

The aim of the Negro revolution will be the overthrow of the white man's rule. It will be the overthrow of the white man's rule.

The aim of the Negro revolution will be the overthrow of the white man's rule. It will be the overthrow of the white man's rule.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black. The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black. The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black. The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black. The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black. The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black. The world is a place where the strong oppress the weak, where the rich oppress the poor, where the white oppress the black.

Martyrs Needed

Martyrs are needed in every age and in every land. They are needed in the church, in the state, in the world. Martyrs are needed in every age and in every land.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : Tom C. Clark, Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: Chester B. Himes; Article Captioned,
"Negro Martyrs Are Needed," appearing in
the May, 1944, Issue of "The Crisis";
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION

DATE: June 29, 1944

TCC:DA:SH

146-28-1519

Reference is made to your memorandum dated
June 13, 1944, to the Criminal Division in the above-entitled
matter.

You are advised that from the information presently
available it appears that further investigation is warranted
and the Criminal Division would appreciate being furnished
with the information that you secure.

*lit. field
w/ investigation!*

~~DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE~~

mc

fu

*let to my
7/10/44*

RECORDED & INDEXED

57

105-2502-X1

31 JUL 1 1944

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-135-35-330

See L. L. 4

JPHa:W

~~100-2502~~
SAC, New York

FBI File - invest.
September 12, 1944

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CHESTER B. HODGES, INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION. 100-174048-5

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter of July 10, 1944, outlining certain investigation desired concerning this individual. You will recall that this inquiry was requested by the Criminal Division of the Department.

It is desired that you immediately give advice as to the status of the investigation and as to the date a report may be expected.

See follow
up with re to
Nye 10/12/44
100-174048-6

RECORDED

EX-40

105-2502-1
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 14 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEP 15

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
SEP 13 1944 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 256,272
DATE 7/13/83 BY 9145cloms

157

17

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

NY FILE NO. **100-63874**

MVB

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 10/10/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/25, 26/44	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>
TITLE CHESTER B. HIMES			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY-C SEDITION

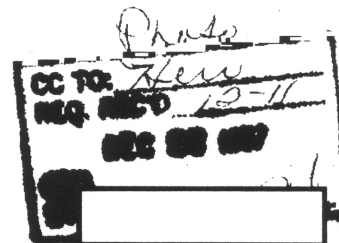
b7C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject is author of article entitled, "Negro Martyrs Are Needed", which appeared in May, 1944 issue of "The Crisis". Article advocates revolution in U.S. Subject is resident of California.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED **3.72**
DATE **7/15/83** BY **9145410ms**

- R U C -

REFERENCE: Bureau File **100-174048**.
Bureau letter to New York dated 7/10/44.



DETAILS: AT NEW YORK CITY

b7C

This investigation is predicated upon a letter from the Bureau dated July 10, 1944 advising that subject was the author of a questionable article entitled, "NEGRO MARTYRS ARE NEEDED", which appeared in the May, 1944 issue of the publication, "The Crisis". Copies of this article have been obtained by the writer from the New York Public Library.

The article in question advocates revolution in the United States. Photostatic copies thereof are being forwarded herewith to the Bureau and to the Los Angeles Field Division. It will be noted that the May, 1944 issue of "The Crisis" indicates that the author of this article is a resident of the State of California.

It will also be noted that the reference letter from the Bureau indicates that the Bureau files show that one CHESTER B. HIMES, of Los Angeles, might be identical with the author of this article.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: **E. E. Conroy**

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES DESTROYED

419 MAY 10 1980

3-Bureau-(Enc. 2)

3-Los Angeles-(Enc. 2)

3-New York

AGENCY

REQ. REC'D

RET'T FORM

BY

COPY IN FILE

105-2502

RECORDED
INDEXED

ADD. DISSEMINATION

NY 100-63874

It is, therefore, believed that the subject is a resident of Los Angeles, California.

Investigation made in the New York Field Division for the purpose of determining the subject's exact street address was negative.

ENCLOSURES (2) BUREAU

Two copies of the article entitled, "NEGRO MARTYRS ARE NEEDED" by CHESTER B. HIMES, which appeared in the May, 1944 issue of "The Crisis".

ENCLOSURES (2) LOS ANGELES

Two copies of the article entitled, "NEGRO MARTYRS ARE NEEDED" by CHESTER B. HIMES, which appeared in the May, 1944 issue of "The Crisis".

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

NY FILE NO. **100-63874**

NYE

REPORT MADE AT

DATE WHEN MADE

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

REPORT MADE BY

NEW YORK, NEW YORK
TITLE

10/10/44

9/25, 26/44

CHARACTER OF CASE

b7C

CHESTER B. HIMES

**INTERNAL SECURITY-C
SEDITION**

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject is author of article entitled, "Negro Martyrs Are Needed", which appeared in May, 1944 issue of "The Crisis". Article advocates revolution in U.S. Subject is resident of California.

- R U C -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-174048.

Bureau letter to New York dated 7/10/44.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED **236,710**
DATE **7/15/85** BY **9/454/095**

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY

This investigation is predicated upon a letter from the Bureau dated July 10, 1944 advising that subject was the author of a questionable article entitled, "NEGRO MARTYRS ARE NEEDED", which appeared in the May, 1944 issue of the publication, "The Crisis". Copies of this article have been obtained by the writer from the New York Public Library.

The article in question advocates revolution in the United States. Photostatic copies thereof are being forwarded herewith to the Bureau and to the Los Angeles Field Division. It will be noted that the May, 1944 issue of "The Crisis" indicates that the author of this article is a resident of the State of California.

It will also be noted that the reference letter from the Bureau indicates that the Bureau files show that one **Chester B. HIMES**, of Los Angeles, might be identical with the author of this article.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px;"> This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned. This is the result of a request for an FBI file check only and is not to be considered as a clearance. </div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau-(Enc.2) 3-Los Angeles-(Enc.2) 3-New York	(Empty space for additional notes or stamps)

JPHa:WMJ

105-2502
SAC, Los Angeles

October 27, 1944

EX-4

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CHESTER B. HIMES
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

Reference is made to the report prepared in this case by Special Agent [redacted] at New York, New York, on October 10, 1944.

b7C

As the Department has specifically asked that this investigation be conducted and as the matter has been pending for some time, it is desired that inquiry be immediately instituted at Los Angeles for the purpose of identifying subject Himes and developing appropriate data as to his background, current activities, etc.

For your more complete information as to previous developments in the matter there are attached copies of the Bureau's letter of July 10, 1944, addressed to the New York Field Division.

With reference to the report submitted at New York City, it is noted that the report set forth relatively little background information as to the type of investigation desired and did not include any undeveloped leads looking toward investigation at Los Angeles. In a situation of this type, the report should have been inclusive of undeveloped leads designating the type of inquiry the Bureau had requested in its previous communication. The Special Agent in Charge at New York should call this situation to the attention of Special Agent [redacted] making certain that he is appropriately apprised as to the proper manner of procedure in instances of this kind.

b7C

cc - New York

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

50 NOV 3 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 256,272
DATE 7/15/85 BY 91454/10ms

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412 MAY 10 1960

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 256,272
DATE 7/15/85 BY 9145C/16ms

ENCLOSURE

105 2502-2

Negro Martyrs Are Needed

By Chester B. Himes

MARTYRS are needed to create incidents which are needed to create revolutions. Revolutions are needed to create progress.

There are the factors desired by the peoples of the world who wanted freedom. No one has ever proved or denied that there are the best factors to employ for the attainment of this goal. It has been proved that there are the best factors to bring about such attainment.

The American Colonials were not the first to establish the dignity of their slaves, but they were the first to do this effectively for the benefit of a large number of people. Since the American Revolution they have become the ABC's of political advancement throughout the world. The Negro and his political aspirations of the political nation have been the human rights of the people are: (1) Progress can be brought about only by revolution; (2) Revolution can only be brought about by violence; (3) Violence can be created only by martyrs.

Of all the oppressed groups of people in the world, Negroes, Jews, Catholics and political, the Negroes, million Negro Americans are the only group who have not yet developed these factors of progress. They must first must first be brought to equality. This is one of the greatest conditions of history. No serious nation, people will deny that the Negro Americans have been the most oppressed minority group in the world for the past three hundred and twenty-five years. But yet no intelligent politician will deny that there is no other means in which Negro Americans can bring themselves from the oppression.

Let us consider then what a Negro American revolution will be and what it will do. First, what point was the possible ways of existence for all people. There are only three.

(1) *Whereas every one is free.* As of today, citizens of the communist dominated nation state of the U.S.S.R. have come closer to this goal. However, it does not matter whether the structure of the government is communist, socialist, or democratic, this is the most desirable way of existence for the majority of the people of the world.

(2) *Whereas a ruling class or race is free.* This is the point to which citizens of the United States of America and of the British Empire have advanced. Obviously, this would seem preferable to the ruling class or race. But the fallacy of that is that this is not a true sense of existence. It is a state of death. The ruling class or race must share

Contrary to the opinion of the late Ulrich B. Phillips Negroes are not "by racial quality submissive" as the many slave revolts attest. In this article our author argues brilliantly for revolution and leaders in the tradition of Gabriel and Nat Turner

their freedom with even one in order to preserve it, or they must give it up.

(3) *Whereas no one is free.* Loosely we may say that this comprises dictatorships and imperialistic nations, especially if they are at this time our enemies. It is generally agreed that less than one-tenth of one per cent of the people of the world prefer this way of existence, so we may take for point of argument that no one prefers it.

Aims of Revolution

There can be only one (1) reason. Only one aim of a revolution by Negro Americans. That is the enforcement of the Constitution of the United States. At this writing no one has yet devised a better way of existence than contained in the Constitution. Therefore Negro Americans could not revolt for any other reason. This is what a Negro American revolution will be. A revolution by a racial minority for the enforcement of the democratic laws already in existence.

What will a revolution by Negro Americans do?

(1) Bring about the overthrow of our present form of government and the creation of a communist state. A communist organization of immense proportions already exists in this nation.

"I therefore defined," Engels wrote, "the objects of Communism in this way: (1) To achieve the interests of the proletariat in opposition to those of the bourgeoisie; (2) To do this through the abolition of private property and its replacement by community of goods; (3) To recognize as means of carrying out these objects other than a democratic revolution by force."

It is obvious that the Communist Party of America will attempt to direct any revolution, whether by Negro Americans or any other group, to the accomplishment of these aims. It is equally obvious that in any nation where great numbers of people are op-

L. More-Engels Selected Correspondence, pp. 1-2

pressed the communists have fair chances of success.

(2) Bring about the overthrow of our present form of government and the creation of a dictatorship.

The first reaction of the people who are endeavoring to continue the existence of white supremacy in all its vicious destructiveness will be to stamp out this revolution with a maximum of violence and a minimum of mercy. Many Negroes will be shot, many will be imprisoned. The remainder will be literally enslaved. *If these people are successful.*

But what is more to be feared is the ultimate progress of the human race. *At this point of change where we now exist we will need to go forward and go back. Low order decency, all the democratic principles which we have so far developed in this nation will be destroyed. The white race will become barbarians. The darker races slaves.*

When people become barbarians they can no longer govern themselves. They cannot only might. The strongest, the most vicious, most vicious, most vicious, most vicious will become the ruler. He will rule as long as he is feared.

(3) It may be successful and bring about the enforcement of the Constitution, democratic equality, and the acceptance of the democratic way of existence by all of the citizens of our nation.

For this to happen it will be necessary that the majority of the people of the United States believe in democracy and will join with us in bringing about its establishment. In this event a Negro American revolution will cease to be a revolution and become a movement of the people to stamp out injustice, inequalities, and violations of the laws. The people who would try to prevent the people from so doing would become the slaveholders, reactionaries and would be dealt with accordingly.

If the majority of the people of the United States do not believe in democracy as the best way of existence, we will not achieve democratic equality in any event. So we are forced to begin our thinking here, we have no other point from which to begin.

Martyrs Needed

At this point Negro martyrs are needed. The martyr to create the incident which will mobilize the forces of justice and carry us forward from the pivot of change to a way of existence where all are free.

It is obvious that we cannot stop here.

(Continued on page 174)

105-2502-2

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, Los Angeles

DATE: October 20, 1944

SUBJECT: CHESTER B. HIMES
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)
SEDITION

b7C

Reference is made to Bureau File #100-174048 and in particular to the report of Special Agent [redacted] New York, dated October 10, 1944.

This report designates Los Angeles as the office of origin in instant case and refers it upon completion to this office, not however setting out any request for investigation by the Los Angeles Office.

The Bureau is requested to advise if any investigation is desired in this matter and under what character it is desired that the investigation be conducted.

cc New York

VIP:RW

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 25,272
DATE 7/15/85 BY 9145C/110NS

*Alvin Karpis
James J. [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]*

RECORDED

EX-13

100-2502-3

mm

8 NOV 8 1944

JPHa:WMJ

100-174048
SAC, New York

October 12, 1944

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CHESTER B. HUBES; INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION.

Reference is made to the Bureau's letters of July 10 and September 12, 1944, requesting investigation in connection with this matter.

Sufficient time has certainly elapsed to permit you to adequately investigate this matter and submit a report. Accordingly, it is desired that an investigative report be submitted no later than October 20, 1944.

Have
W x r r r
INVESTIGATIVE
IN - 10. 10/16/44



see
105-2502

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 256,272
DATE 7/15/83 BY 9145C/L/MS

105-2502-4
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 13 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
12 FILE DECEMBER 1000
12 1944 CP. 15 2 58 PM '44

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

December 1, 1944

CESTER B. HINES; INTERNAL SECURITY - C; SUBJECT.

1

In order that an early reply may be made to the Department, please accord the requested investigation immediate attention and submit a report in the near future.

DATE 7/15/85 BY 914sciloms

DEC 5 1947

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: December 1, 1944

FROM : Tom C. Clark, Assistant Attorney General

TCC TCC:DA:mlv
146-28-1519SUBJECT: Chester B. Himes; Article Captioned,
"Negro Martyrs Are Needed," appearing in
the May, 1944, Issue of "The Crisis";
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION

Reference is made to my memorandum dated June 29, 1944,
requesting that an investigation be conducted relative to the above
entitled matter. In case you have received any reports in this matter,
it would be appreciated if you would furnish the Criminal Division
with copies of them.

Memorandum to Clark
12/16/44
JTC

RECORDED

INDEXED

13

2-25

105-2502-6

AT
JTC

JPha:WMJ
105-2502
12-8-44

-6
Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Chester B. Hines; Article Captioned,
"Negro Martyrs Are Needed," appearing in
the May, 1944, issue of "The Crisis";
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION.

Reference is made to your memorandum of December 1, 1944, asking
that you be furnished with copies of any available reports submitted in this
case.

Although considerable difficulty was initially experienced in locating
subject Hines, it is anticipated that a complete report will be received by the
Bureau in the near future and when it is available a copy will be immediately
furnished you.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 256,273
DATE 7/15/83 BY 91454/DMF

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

74 DEC 13 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

FILE NO. **100-22661**

REPORT MADE AT

LOS ANGELES

DATE WHEN MADE

11/25/44

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

11/7-9/44

REPORT MADE BY

KH

TITLE

CHANGED

CHESTER BORMOR HIMES

CHARACTER OF CASE

**INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION**

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject is a 35-year-old Negro, born in Jefferson City, Missouri, 7/29/09, reportedly well educated and interested in sociological problems of Negro race; has resided in California since 1940, coming here from Cleveland, Ohio; is presently in NYC in connection with publication of a book recently written by him; claims to have written numerous articles for various publications, including Saturday Evening Post and Esquire; in LA is known to have contributed to at least two radical type publications; member of NAACP, NYC; has FBI number 176232; served eight years of a twenty-year sentence for robbery at Cleveland in 1928; is friend of certain CP members and is possibly sympathetic to Communist movement, but not known to be a member or active therein himself.

in New York - 1944
came to 65 writers!

- P -

DATE **7/15/85** BY **9143 ciloms**

REFERENCE:

Bureau file No. 105-2502.

Report of Special Agent

Bureau letter 10/27/44.

New York, 10/10/44.

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being changed to reflect the complete name of this subject as **CHESTER BORMOR HIMES**, as obtained by current investigation at Los Angeles.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *[Signature]*
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES DESTROYED

412 MAY 10 1962

- 5 Bureau
- 2 New York
- 2 Cleveland
- 3 Los Angeles

CC TO: []
REQ. []
DEC 28 1947
BY: []

b7C

CHAP. 2

L A 100-22661

For the information of interested offices, this subject first came to the attention of the Bureau as a result of a questionable article which subject had written entitled "Negro Martyrs Are Needed," which appeared in the May 1944 issue of the publication, "The Crisis." This article related to certain proposed revolutionary actions which subject advocated on the part of Negroes. The Criminal Division of the Department subsequently requested that an investigation of HIMES be undertaken with a view to developing data as to his general background, activities, inclinations, etc. Preliminary investigation by the New York Field Office indicated that the subject presently resided at Los Angeles, California.

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

A check of the Los Angeles indices regarding this individual revealed only that in March 1944 he applied to the Coast Guard at San Pedro, California, for a pass to enter the yards of the Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, but that at the time of his request he was found to have no draft registration or classification card in his possession. At that time he claimed that he had left both of them at home, his residence address being 1056 North de Garmo Drive, Los Angeles.

Address #

No credit record or other data regarding subject was found at the various credit agencies in Los Angeles. He is not listed in either the current city or telephone directory, although subsequent investigation revealed that he does have a residence telephone, Angelus 22272, which is apparently unlisted.

It was learned through [redacted] that in March 1944 subject was employed for a time by the Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company at San Pedro; further, that subject was believed to have had a criminal record of some years ago from Cleveland, Ohio.

b2
b7D

[redacted] was interviewed previously under a suitable pretext [redacted] as a result of which it was learned that subject is a Negro born at Jefferson City, Missouri, on July 29, 1909. His father, JOSEPH S. HIMES, was a teacher in the school system at Lincoln, Missouri. He married his present wife at Cleveland, Ohio, and they came to California in 1940. Since then they have lived for the most part at Los Angeles and presently own their home at 1056 North de Garmo Drive. Subject is well educated [redacted]

b7C

[redacted] Sociology, in which subject himself is also greatly interested, particularly regarding the lot of the Negro race. It was learned that as a matter of fact he had written more than one book on the sociological study of minorities and the Negro people in particular, as well as several magazine articles. He has never been successful in getting a book published, however, until recently, when he contracted for the

1115 LIT.
FBI/LOS ANGELES
DISCUSS

L A 100-22661

Beach Avenue, Los Angeles; 1943, Richmond Shipyard, Richmond, California, as shipfitter trainee; 1943, Towlsaver, Inc., 2012 East 12th Street, Los Angeles, as towel machine operator; 1944, Kaiser-Hughes Aircraft Company, warehouse, Vernon, California; 1944, Huntington Rubber Company, 4128 Whiteside Avenue, Los Angeles, as tire rebuilder; 1944, Borden Sales Manufacturing Company, Los Angeles, as warehouseman.

It may be noted that after obtaining the job at Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company on March 6, 1944, subject terminated at his own request, one week later claiming a spinal injury prevented his working. Nothing of a derogatory nature concerning his activities during that one week was indicated in the file.

Searches of the Identification Divisions of both the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office revealed no criminal record for the subject since he has resided in Los Angeles. However, the police records do show that one CHESTER HIMES, FBI #176232, had registered with the Police Department as an ex-convict on December 10, 1941. It is noted that this does not constitute an arrest record, but merely a registration as an ex-convict in accordance with the requirements of a city ordinance. This record reveals that CHESTER HIMES in December 1928 was arrested by the Police Department at Cleveland, Ohio, under that name on a charge of robbery, receiving a sentence of twenty years in the State Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio. According to the record, he served some eight years of this sentence until his release on parole in April 1936, being finally released from parole on February 3, 1939.

The Bureau is being requested to furnish the up-to-date criminal record of this individual.

In the August 14, 1942, issue of the "People's World," Communist news organ for the West Coast, there is printed a letter which CHESTER B. HIMES wrote to the editor of the paper. This letter is entitled "India Freedom Essential." It is noted that this was during the period when the Communist Party was extremely active in its propaganda calling for the opening of a second front in Europe. This letter is quoted as follows:

"As an American Negro citizen, I must advocate the immediate independence of India regardless of whatever stand taken by the Indian nationals. For the same political reason I must advocate the immediate opening of a second front."

"I feel that the political leaders of my country who favor a second front are inseparable from those who favor the freedom of

People's World
Aug 14, 1942
Does not
EXIST

FILE
with
negs
again!
-C

CHAP. 3

L A 100-22661

India, and that those and only those who favor both a second front and the independence of India are the only ones who will fight for the political and economic equality of American Negroes.

"I feel that the independence of India is of equal political and military importance to the opening of the second front, for only by the advocacy of both can the political power of the proletariat be strengthened.

"The division of these two main objectives of the proletariat, the opening of the second front and the independence of India, would divide and weaken the entire effort of the people to gain sufficient political strength to have a voice in the writing of the people.

"I urge that your paper continue to fight for Indian independence regardless of the moves of capitalistic politics to split the unity of the people.

Sincerely yours,

CHESTER B. HIMES
Los Angeles, California"

Subject had an article entitled "People We Know," published in the November 1943 issue of "The War Worker," a local publication issued semi-monthly at Los Angeles, the owner and editorial staff of which are chiefly Negroes and which paper has been classified as a radical type. This article starts off by stating that the author, CHESTER B. HIMES, is taking the liberty to publish four typed pages of a Nisei's diary in the hope that a better understanding of the problems confronting these Japanese-Americans might be attained. The author, by way of preliminary introduction, states:

"First let me point out the greatest fallacy in our regard to all minorities. We are branded by the magnificence of our nation into believing that no person will ever desire to transfer his allegiance. But yet there are many citizens of this nation, among whom are the Nisei, who have never been permitted to share the rights, privileges, and opportunities which make this nation magnificent. We command these groups of citizens to uphold, cherish, and abide by a system of government and a way of life which excludes them from all of the best it has to offer. And strangely, we feel betrayed when allegiance is not manifested in glowing emulation. Verily we are a rare people.

all his
early
journalism
reproduced!

L A 100-22661

"But wouldn't it be wonderful if we in this nation progressed to a point of common interests and common aims, where every citizen, no matter what birth, ancestry, or race, would be willing without reservation or hesitation to go out and die for it.

"But I would not want to be accused of being visionary, idealistic, utopianistic; I am American, was born American, think American, so therefore I offer an alternative. If, after reading these excerpts from this Nisei's diary, all of us are still consumed with our relentless hate for them, let's not quibble, investigate, and vituperate; let's take them out and shoot them...."

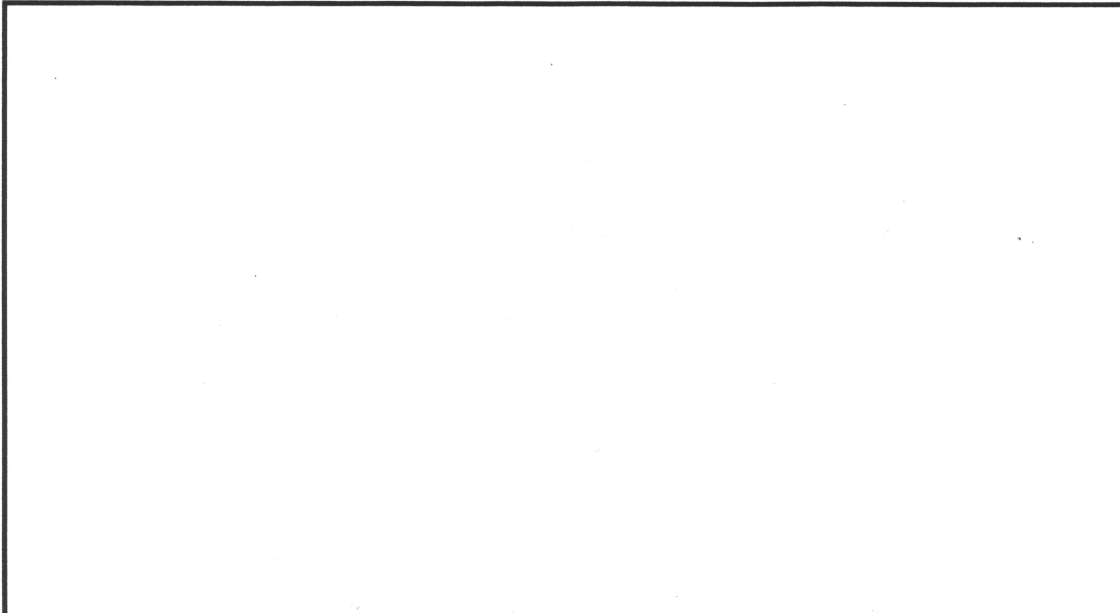
The author thereafter quotes a lengthy passage from what is purported to be from a Nisei's diary under date of August 25, 1933, in which the Nisei decries the fact that Japanese-Americans are hybrids of two contrasting civilizations, as a result of which they live the unique life of an oriental heritage and an occidental environment, with the result that often the two distinctly clash and seem to be at war with each other; further, that in spite of the efforts of the Nisei to be good Americans, they are, for the most part, subject to prejudice and discrimination in the country in which they were born.

Numerous reliable confidential sources regarding the Communist Party and the Communist Political Association in the Los Angeles area have been contacted for any information indicating that subject CHESTER B. HIMES may be sympathetic to or active in the Communist movement in this area. However, these sources advise that there is no [redacted] subject is or has been a member of the Party in this area. b7D

It may be noted, however, that in his application for employment with the Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in March 1944, subject listed as references [redacted]

By way of identification of the above individuals, the Los Angeles files reveal that [redacted] b7C

L A 100-22661



b7C

b7D

Subject is described in his application at the Los Angeles Ship-
yard as:

Race	Negro
Age	35; born Jefferson City, Missouri, July 29, 1909
Residence	1056 North de Garmo Drive Los Angeles, California Telephone Angelus 22272
Height	5'8"
Weight	150
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown; wears rimless glasses
Complexion	Dark, smooth shaven
Occupation	Writer and laborer
Draft board	LDB #20, Cleveland, Ohio
Marital status	Married; wife, JEAN JOHNSON HIMES
Social Security number	293-09-2293
FBI number	176232

- PENDING -

MAP. 3

L A 100-22661

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

CLEVELAND FIELD DIVISION

AT CLEVELAND, OHIO:

Is requested to check the names of [redacted] subject [redacted] against its indices and report whether subject has ever come to the attention of that office. It is noted that prior to coming to California in 1940 or 1941, HIMES resided in Cleveland, Ohio, where he also went to school.

b7C

Is requested to ascertain from the Cleveland Police Department whether HIMES has ever come to its attention in connection with radical activities in Cleveland.

Will report subject's status with Local Draft Board #20 and any additional background data reflected in his Selective Service file.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK CITY:

Is requested to discreetly ascertain if subject's book has yet been published by the Houghton & Mifflin Company, and if so, obtain a copy for examination for possible seditious or revolutionary material it might contain. It is noted that the best information at hand indicates that this book is entitled "After the End Comes," concerning the publication of which subject is in New York City at the present time, located at 940 St. Nicholas Street. It is suggested that in the event the book has not yet been published, no contact with the publishing house for a review of its contents should be made in the absence of instructions from the Bureau to do so.

New York

THESIS II
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want
BLACK
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WENT!
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LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

Will contact the various past employers of the subject to ascertain whether, during such employment, he is known to have made any seditious statements or advocated the revolutionary overthrow of the country.

WILL SET UP
BOARD SHOW

Will report any criminal record received from the Bureau.

L A 100-22661



b2
b7C
b7D

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LOS ANGELES

FILE NO. 100-22661

REPORT MADE AT

LOS ANGELES

DATE WHEN MADE

11/22/44

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

11/7-9/44

REPORT MADE BY

AM

TITLE

CHANGED
CHRISTEN BOMMON KINGS

CHARACTER OF CASE

INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SUBVERSION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject is a 38-year-old Negro, born in Jefferson City, Missouri, 7/29/06, reportedly well educated and interested in sociological problems of Negro race; has resided in California since 1940, coming here from Cleveland, Ohio; is presently in NYC in connection with publication of a book recently written by him; claims to have written numerous articles for various publications, including Saturday Evening Post and Esquire; in LA is known to have contributed to at least two radical type publications; member of NAACP, NYC; has FBI number 176232; served eight years of a twenty-year sentence for robbery at Cleveland in 1928; is friend of certain CP members and is possibly sympathetic to Communist movement, but not known to be a member or active therein himself.

b7C

- P -

REFERENCE:

Bureau file No. 100-2808.

Report of Special Agent

New York, 10/10/44.

Bureau letter 10/27/44.

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being changed to reflect the complete name of this subject as CHRISTEN BOMMON KINGS, as obtained by current investigation at Los Angeles.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- ⑤ Bureau
- 2 New York
- 2 Cleveland
- 2 Los Angeles

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 2372
DATE 7/15/83 BY 9456/ams



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Los Angeles, 13, California
November 25, 1944

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Re: *C.S.*
CHESTER BORMOR HIMES
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

Name (inc. aliases)	City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.	Approximate date Fin- gerprints forwarded Federal Bureau of In- vestigation.	Fingerprint Classifica- tion.
CHESTER BORMOR HIMES	FBI number 176232 <i>o</i>	<i>12/5/44</i>	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 256272
DATE 7/15/83 BY 9143 CIL/DMS

INSTRUCTIONS SENT
MAILED
DEC - 8 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE



MMB:KH
100-22661

Very truly yours,

R. B. Hood

R. B. HOOD
Special Agent in Charge

50 DEC 16 1944

165-2582-4
12/1/44
12/4/44

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
 FROM : SAC, Los Angeles
 SUBJECT: CHESTER BORMOR HIMES
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C
 SEDITION

DATE: November 25, 1944

Reference is made to the enclosed report of Special Agent [redacted] dated November 25, 1944, at Los Angeles, in the captioned matter.

b7C

It is noted therein that current investigation regarding subject at Los Angeles fails to reveal any of his writings other than one or two articles for local publications. However, it is noted that subject presently is believed to have contracted with Houghton & Mifflin Company, publishers in New York, for the publication of a recent book about a young Negro couple, entitled "After the End Comes," in connection with which subject is now in New York City.

The referenced report sets out a lead for the New York Office to discreetly ascertain if this book has already been published, in order that its contents may be reviewed. The Bureau is requested to advise the New York Office, however, whether, in the event the book has not yet been published, any attempt should be made to contact the publishing house for a review of its contents.

Enclosures (5)
 MMB:KH
 100-22661
 cc New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 236273
 DATE 7/15/83 BY 9145 C/110ms

RECORDED

4 100-2502-7

JPHa:WMJ

105-2502 - 7
SAC, Los Angeles

CHAP-3
December 18, 1944

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CHESTER BORGOR HILES; INTERNAL SECURITY - C; SEDITION.

Reference is made to the report submitted in this case by Special Agent [redacted] at Los Angeles, California, on November 25, 1944, and to your letter of the same date concerning the lead designated for the New York Field Division. b7C

For the present the Bureau desires that the lead for the New York Field Division be covered as it now stands. In other words, the New York Office should make a discreet contact with the Houghton and Mifflin Company and when subject's book has been published, a copy should be secured and reviewed and if the book is inclusive of possibly seditious material, it should be sent to the Bureau for review. It will not be necessary to make any special arrangements with the publishing company in order that the proposed book may be reviewed prior to its publication.

cc - New York

105-2502-7

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 254272
DATE 7/15/83 BY 914541 OMS

16

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Pennington	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WJH

DEC 20 1944

mm

JPHa:WMJ
105-2502

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

December 18, 1944

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

CHESTER BORAH HINES
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

Reference is made to our previous correspondence concerning this subject, your reference TCC:DA:SH, 146-28-1519.

For your information there are attached copies of the following two reports which have been submitted during the course of the investigation to date:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York City on October 10, 1944.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Los Angeles, California, on November 25, 1944.

This investigation is continuing and when additional information is developed you will be advised.

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

78 DEC 21 1944

EX-8

105-2502-8
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 10 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 256,273
DATE 7/15/85 BY 9145 cilams

NY 100-63874

"Marihuana and a Pistol"

This article is captioned "He thought of his fingers on the trigger of the gun and realized he could shoot a man or two—he could kill everybody." This is another fiction article describing the thoughts of a marihuana victim who planned to "stick up" a Cleveland bank using beer bottles in place of guns but who upon finding that he had a pistol attempted to hold up a store and shot the proprietor.

"Strictly Business"

This article is captioned "Big Angelo didn't trust the boys in the mob so he kept Sure on a salary with bonus." This is a fiction story of a murder committed by a man named Sure purely for business reasons, the murderer's business being murder. It depicts the subsequent flight and the final apprehension of the murderer.

[REDACTED] HINES PUBLISHING COMPANY, 292 Madison Avenue, New York City. New York advised that there is no record in New York City showing the articles published by subject in the "Saturday Evening Post." He stated that such records are maintained by [REDACTED] "Saturday Evening Post," Independence Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

b7C
b7D

For the information of the Chicago and Philadelphia offices, the subject first came to the attention of the Bureau as a result of a questionable article which subject had written entitled "Negro Martys are Needed" which appeared in the May 1944 issue of the publication "The Crisis." This article related to certain proposed revolutionary actions which subject advocated on the part of the Negroes.

The Criminal Division of the Department subsequently requested that an investigation of HINES be undertaken with a view of developing data as to his general background, activities, inclinations, etc. Preliminary investigation in the New York Field Division indicated that subject presently resides at Los Angeles, California. It was determined by the Los Angeles office that subject is a Negro, 35 years of age, born in Jefferson City, Missouri, and reported to be well educated and interested in sociological problems of the Negro race. It was further determined that he is a friend of certain Communist Party members and is possibly sympathetic to the Communist movement but is not known to be a member or active therein himself.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

NY 100-63874

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION:

At Chicago, Illinois - Will contact [redacted] Esquire Magazine, 919 North Michigan Avenue, and obtain from him all possible background information or data concerning the subject.

b7C

b7D

PHILADELPHIA FIELD DIVISION:

At Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - Will contact [redacted] Saturday Evening Post, Independence Square, for the purpose of determining what articles written by subject were published in that magazine and will if practical review those articles for the purpose of determining whether or not there is any seditious material contained therein.

C 11A1-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

This Case Originated at
Report Made at

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

NY File No. 100-63874 SBS

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Date When Made	Period for Report Made By
1/8/45	Which Made
	12/14, 18/44
	1/1/45

Title

CHESTER BORMOR HIMES

Character of Case

INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SEDITION

Synopsis of Facts:

HOUGHTON & MIFFLIN CO. have not published nor contracted to publish any book for subject. Subject is unknown to them. Subject has a contract and is presently writing a book for DOUBLEDAY DORAN CO. Articles written by subject and published in "Esquire" reviewed herein.

b7C

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 105-2502.
Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated
November 25, 1944 at Los Angeles, California.

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

[redacted] HOUGHTON & MIFFLIN COMPANY, 432 Fourth Avenue, New York City, New York, advised that CHESTER BORMOR HIMES has no contract with that Company for the publication of any book, pamphlet, or writings of any kind. He stated that HIMES is not known to that Company and that they have never published anything for him.

b7C
b7D

[redacted]
RUSSELL & VOLKMAN, 522 Fifth Avenue, New York City, New York, stated that that partnership is the literary representative for the subject in the New York area. He stated that at the present time HIMES is under contract to the DOUBLEDAY DORAN COMPANY and that he is presently writing a book for that Company.

Approved and
Forwarded

Special Agent
in Charge

Do not write in these spaces

Copies of this Report

- ⑤ Bureau
- 3 Los Angeles
- 2 Chicago
- 2 Philadelphia
- 2 New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 254,272
DATE 1/13/85 BY 9143410ms